

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

31

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 23 MAR 50

SUBJECT P/K School at Torgau
25X1

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PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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25X1 1. Personnel Strength and Table of Equipment, as of 25 November 1949

a. Table of Organization Strength

Officers: 140
Students: 1000

Actual Strength:

Officers: 122
Students: 930

b. Weapons and Vehicles:

Carbines 98K	1000
Pistols, 08 and 38	130
Machine pistols (Sturmgewehr 44)	120
Mortars, 80mm	60
Anti-Aircraft, "Vierling", 37mm, 1 self propelled, 1 mounted on armored car (with Russian numerals)	2
Anti-tank, 37mm	2
Light artillery piece (caliber not given)	2
Armored vehicles, light	2
Personnel carriers	6
Radio car	1
Motor cycles	4

Delivery of two tanks, type T 34 and one battery of 88mm AA with listening device was expected in the immediate future.

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2. Daily Schedule:

0600	Reveille
0605-0615	Calisthenics
0615-0650	Breakfast
0650-0710	Cleaning of barracks
0710-0720	Preparation for duty
0720-0730	Roll Call
0730-0820	Political Instruction
0820-0830	Rest Period
0830-0920	Political Instruction
10 minute rest period	
1030-1320	Field exercises (Attack and defense), with ten minute rest periods at end of each hour.
1330-1500	Lunch Period
1500-1550	Political Lesson
1600-1650	Russian Language Lesson
1700-1750	Mathematics
1800-1850	Spare time for cleaning of rifles and equipment.
1900-2000	Supper
2000-2200	Political Lecture, Movie, or Party Group Meeting
2300	Taps

3. Study Plan:

a. Form of Presentation:

Political Lessons are given in the following manner:

Political Lectures
Political Consultations
Political Seminars
Political Self Study Periods
Political Films
SED Evening Groups
PDJ Evening Groups
Political Information

Military Instruction follows the directives of the former Army High Command and includes following:

Close and Extended Order Drill, with and without weapons
Range Firing
Nomenclature of weapons
Field Exercises, Platoon and Company
Strategy and Tactics
Engineering problems and Exercises
Topography and Camouflage

General Training includes the following subjects:

German
Mathematics
Russian
Calisthenics
Geography
Sports

b. Political Subjects:

- 1) The general political situation in the world at present. (The forces of Communism are growing from day to day and will soon replace capitalism entirely.)
- 2) Introduction to Marxist-Leninist doctrine.
- 3) The Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels

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- 4) The history of Russia from the tenth century.
 - 5) The Communist Party of the Soviet Union.
 - 6) Readings in the philosophy of materialism
 - 7) The history of materialism
 - 8) Theory of dialectics and dialectical materialism
 - 9) German history, in which students are shown that Germany has no valid historical claim to those districts east of the Oder-Neisse Line.
 - 10) History of the German Social Democratic movement, in which the exponents of Social Democracy are shown never to have represented the interests of the German workers.
 - 11) The Oder-Neisse Line as the "peace border".
 - 12) Titoism
 - 13) The German Revolution of 1848.
 - 14) Political economy
 - 15) The new political party, in which organizations based on an active cadre are held to be superior to the mass political parties.
- c. At nearly all lectures, appropriate films are shown, which are later discussed in group meetings. Source describes one such film which portrayed a Soviet pilot, shot down behind the German lines, making his way, though badly wounded, back to a partisan band and finally to a Russian field hospital. Although both legs had been amputated, the flier through the force of his belief in the final victory of Communism, was able again to take part in the war as a pilot.

4. Assigned Personnel:

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- a. Inspekteur Otto Schwab, school director and P/K chief.

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- b. Inspekteur Schwarz (fnu), deputy school director and chief of Instructional Aids (Lehrmittel) Dept.

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- c. Oberpolizeirat Hinze (fnu), member Instructional Aids Dept.

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d. Oberkommissar Moch (fnu), member Instructional Aids Dept.

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25X1 e. Kommandeur Fiebusch (fnu), Intendantur.

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25X1 f. Kommandeur Herold (fnu), Chief of Operations.

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25X1 g. Oberpolizeirat Forbenius (fnu), company commander of 2nd Company.

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h. Oberpolizeirat Mueller (fnu), Company Commander of 3rd Company and teacher of military tactics.

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i. Oberpolizeirat Pollack (fnu), teaches basic tactics in engineering and tank combat.

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j. Oberpolizeirat Bergmann (fnu), political instructor.

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k. Polizeirat Weiss (fnu), a company P/K officer.

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l. Polizeirat Margusch (fnu), a company P/K officer.

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25X1 m. Polizeirat Mai (fnu), a company P/K officer.

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n. Pieleles (fnu), political instructor [redacted]

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o. Oberpolizeirat Hausig (fnu), SED functionary. [redacted]

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p. Kurt Selomann, SED functionary. [redacted]

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q. Oberpolizeirat Brueckner (fnu), teaches basic tactics. [redacted]

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r. Oberkommissar Jupp (fnu), teaches geography. [redacted]

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5. General Character of the School

a. The School at Torgau provides instruction only for P/K officials, the established course lasting eight months. Primary emphasis is placed on political instruction, but military training is also stressed on the grounds that the P/K officer must be prepared to lead a company or battalion in the event the military commander should be disabled or desert to the enemy. This second contingency is used to point out to students that the politically educated functionary is the fundamental element upon which a People's Republic is erected. In this connection, students at Torgau are instructed that after graduation when they receive positions with high-level agencies, they should be at pains to wear uniforms bearing insignia of low rank to enable them to mingle with correspondingly placed employees and determine the prevailing attitudes at those levels.

b. Original recruitment policy for the Torgau school aimed at the enrollment of young people between the ages of 18 and 25 years, but the lack of suitable student material forced the school authorities to accept some candidates of 17 years and many others older and married, an unhappy union between practice and theory which maintains that the ideal P/K official remains single in order to devote 100 percent of his energies to his work.

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c. [redacted]

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[redacted] Among those participating in the courses were included, besides members of the

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police, whose ranks in some instances were up to Polizeikommissar and Polizeimeister, many civilians who had been chosen without regard to their wishes in the matter. This policy of forced participation and the rule which denied all leaves except for reasons of emergency were the principal grounds for much of the discontent which subsequently manifested itself during the course. The latter rule eventually had to be modified, and 50 per cent of the students were granted eight day leaves beginning 20 August 1949, with the other half being free for the same period of time upon the return of the first contingent. Subsource describes student morale as continuing to deteriorate up to the time of his defection in mid-November 1949.

6. Installations in School Vicinity:

- a. Near the school proper is a Russian ammunition dump, from which the ammunition for training purposes is drawn with three underground and two surface shelters and several ammunition tents. The dump is bordered by a 2 km guarded area, with watch towers spaced at intervals, from which the area guards, numbering approximately 150 German police and 30 Russian soldiers, are empowered to shoot without warning.
- b. This area also serves as a training ground in military tactics where the students are instructed in platoon and company formations in attack and defense, close combat with artillery support, the use of hand grenades and explosives, target designation and judgement of distances, and topographic description. In the ruins of the bombed-out barracks house-to-house and shelter fighting are taught, while practice in forest fighting is given in the nearby wooded area. Engineering training, including the construction of emergency bridges, street blockades, barbed wire barriers and anti-tank defenses, as well as the neutralization of such defenses, is also stressed.

Enclosure:

Sketch of School Area.

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